

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-10-13

Issued at: Palmer, Thursday, April 18, 2013

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday,
July 13, 2013, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure only when fishing in the Little Susitna River drainage. A single-hook is defined as a hook with only one point. In addition, this emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon (any size) each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday beginning Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Catch-and-release fishing is allowed, but king salmon may not be retained or possessed Tuesday–Friday; king salmon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. King salmon may be retained on each Saturday, Sunday, and Monday in the Little Susitna River.

This emergency order is effective from 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2013. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters open to king salmon fishing within the Little Susitna River drainage from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area. (9)(A) and (9)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2013:

5AAC 60.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from January 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway sport fishing for king salmon is open; bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is one fish; from May 15 – July 13 king salmon may only be retained on Saturday, Sunday and Monday; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) from October 1 – May 14, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; from May 15 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used; from July 14 – August 5, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Little Susitna River king salmon sustainable escapement goal is 900–1,800 fish. The escapement goal was not achieved in 2010 and 2011. The goal was achieved in 2012, but not without preseason action to restrict sport harvest and eventually closing the fishery midseason. Continued poor productivity warrants more conservative actions be taken in 2013 than were taken in 2012. It is anticipated that these restrictions combined with an annual limit reduction implemented under a separate emergency order will reduce harvest by as much as 75 percent. This can be expected to add approximately 700 fish to the escapement count and provide the greatest potential for achieving the escapement goal during 2013, yet continue to provide fishing opportunity throughout the season. A weir will be used to assess run strength during the season.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-09-13 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Susitna River drainage and the Little Susitna River. This emergency order remains in effect from 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2013.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.